

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0042
(916) 319-2042
FAX (916) 319-2142

DISTRICT OFFICE
9200 W. SUNSET BLVD., P.H. #15
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069
(310) 285-5490
(818) 902-0521
FAX (310) 285-5499

Assembly California Legislature



MIKE FEUER
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-SECOND DISTRICT

CHAIR
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE # 5
ON INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY/TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEES
BUDGET
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND
TOXIC MATERIALS
JUDICIARY
REVENUE AND TAXATION

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

VOL. CLVII ... No. 54,077

© 2007 The New York Times

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2007

An Opportunity for Mr. Schwarzenegger

California's Republican governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, has a laudable record of splitting with his party's orthodoxy to support pathbreaking state initiatives on global warming and stem cell research. Now Mr. Schwarzenegger has a chance to make Californians safer, and set a new national standard, by signing into law the Crime Gun Identification Act of 2007.

The measure would make California the first state to require that all new semiautomatic weapons be equipped with technology known as microstamping, which imprints microscopic markings as a gun fires. That would allow police to quickly match bullet casings found at a crime scene to the weapon that shot them, a valuable new tool for solving gun crimes and for deterring gun traffickers who supply violent criminals.

The technology is relatively inexpensive. And the new law gives manufacturers until 2010 to retool. Mike

Feuer, the Democratic Assemblyman who is the author of the bill, notes that more than 40 percent of homicides in California go unsolved yearly for lack of evidence. The national record is not much better, explaining the bill's broad support from law enforcement. There is no real explanation, save the fierce opposition of the gun lobby, for why no Republican voted for the bill.

California's embrace of the innovative crime-fighting tool over reflexive gun lobby opposition would set an example for other states, and also for Congress, which certainly needs more than a push. Nearly six months after the massacre at Virginia Tech, a bill to tighten the system for preventing people with serious mental problems from purchasing guns still languishes.

For California, the new law offers a real chance to save lives and bring more perpetrators of violent crime to justice. Mr. Schwarzenegger's choice should be easy.